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*Image* AF11623  
PATENT APPLICATION

RESPONSE UNDER 37 CFR §1.116  
EXPEDITED PROCEDURE  
TECHNOLOGY CENTER ART UNIT 1623

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re the Application of

Eric DEFRANCQ et al.

Group Art Unit: 1623

Application No.: 09/869,796

Examiner: P. Lewis

Filed: September 19, 2001

Docket No.: 110024

For: FUNCTIONALIZED POLYNUCLEOTIDE COMPOUND, OPTIONALLY MARKED  
AND METHOD FOR DETECTING A TARGET NUCLEIC ACID

AMENDMENT AFTER FINAL REJECTION UNDER 37 CFR §1.116

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

In reply to the January 14, 2004 Office Action, please consider the following:

**Amendments to the Claims** as reflected in the listing of claims; and

**Remarks.**